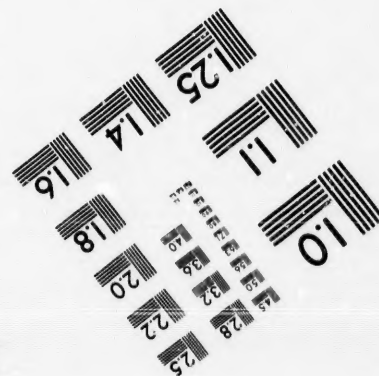
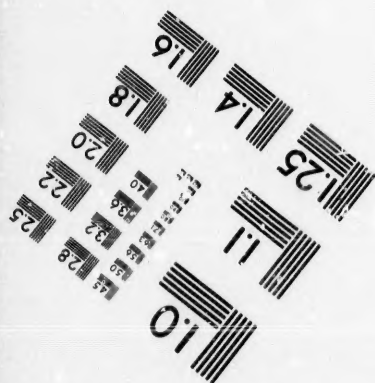
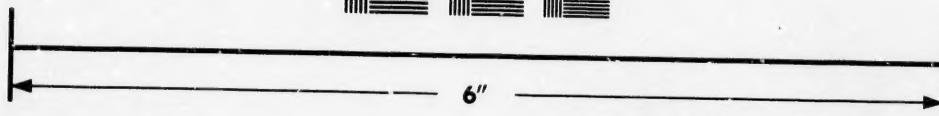
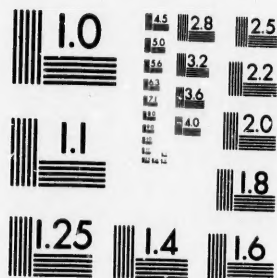


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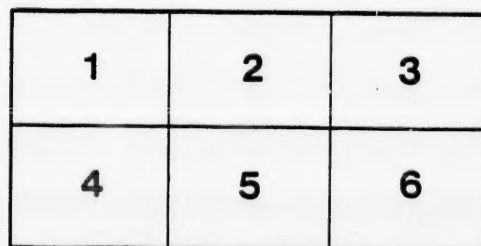
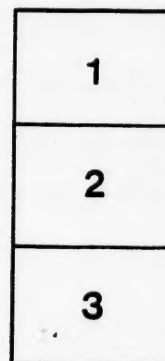
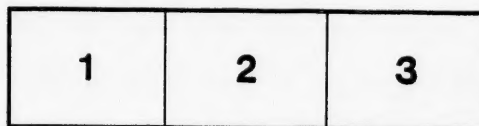
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To the Government of the Dominion of Canada.

We the Queen's Loyal and peaceable Subjects, Representatives of the Religious Society of Friends or people called Quakers, in the Dominion of Canada, being met about the affairs of the Church, avail ourselves of the opportunity thus afforded to assure you of our continued attachment to the Government of our beloved Queen, and to express to you our gratitude for the large share of civil and religious liberty we have hitherto enjoyed.

Also, to bring to your notice the principles held by us—especially in reference to *War* and *Oaths*. It is the unchangeable belief of the Society of Friends, that all wars are entirely at variance with the principles of the Christian religion, and to the spirit and precepts of its Divine founder, whose advent was accompanied by the Heavenly Host proclaiming the Anthem "Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace good will toward men." Who has commanded his followers "That ye resist not evil," but to "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you. That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven, for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."

Believing these commands are obligatory on the Christian, the Society of Friends have ever felt religiously bound to refrain from carnal warfare, or taking part in Military Organizations. We cannot engage in these acts ourselves, neither can we compromise our principles by paying others to do them for us. We therefore earnestly desire you to give the subject your deliberate and favorable consideration. And as liberty of conscience is the birthright of every British Subject, we would respectfully solicit that on account of our well-known principles of non-resistance and peace, we and others similarly circumstanced may be exempted from Military Service.

As we cannot take an oath, believing that all oaths whether judicial or otherwise are expressly prohibited by our blessed Lord, we are free to express our gratitude to our Government and Legislators for the relief they have so liberally accorded us.

We earnestly pray that wisdom from God may be granted to our Rulers, that they may be enabled so to administer the affairs of the Dominion as to promote the happiness of the subject, and bring Glory and honor to the supreme ruler of the universe.

May the blessing of our Heavenly Father rest upon our beloved Queen, upon Her Representative, and on all those in authority.

Signed by direction and on behalf of a Meeting of the Representatives of the Religious Society of Friends, held at Pickering, Province of Ontario, the sixth of 12th month, 1867.

IRA CLARK, Clerk.

